

Government Contracting. The SBA regulations are found at 13 CFR 125.24 through 125.28.

(d) An offeror's protest must be received by close of business on the fifth business day after bid opening (in sealed bid acquisitions) or by close of business on the fifth business day after notification by the contracting officer of the apparently successful offeror (in negotiated acquisitions). Any protest received after these time limits is untimely. Any protest received prior to bid opening or notification of intended award, whichever applies, is premature and shall be returned to the protester.

(e) Except for premature protests, the contracting officer must forward to SBA by mail or facsimile transmission (202-205-6390) any protest received, notwithstanding whether the contracting officer believes that the protest is insufficiently specific or untimely. The protest must be accompanied by a referral letter, with the notation on the envelope or facsimile cover sheet: "Attn: Service-Disabled Veteran Status Protest," and be sent to Associate Administrator for Government Contracting AA/GU, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

(f) The referral letter must include information pertaining to the solicitation that may be necessary for SBA to determine timeliness and standing, including the solicitation number; the name, address, telephone number and facsimile number of the contracting officer; whether the contract was sole-source or set-aside; whether the protestor submitted an offer; whether the protested concern was the apparent successful offeror; when the protested concern submitted its offer (*i.e.*, made the self-representation that it was a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern); whether the procurement was conducted using sealed bid or negotiated procedures; the bid opening date, if applicable; when the protest was submitted; when the protester received notification about the apparent successful offeror, if applicable; and whether a contract has been awarded.

(g) The Associate Administrator for Government Contracting will notify the protester and the contracting offi-

cer of the date the protest was received and whether the protest will be processed or dismissed for lack of timeliness or specificity.

(h) All questions about service-disabled veteran-owned small business size or status must be referred to the SBA for resolution. When making its determinations of veteran, service-disabled veteran, or service-disabled veteran with a permanent and severe disability status, the SBA will rely upon determinations made by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Department of Defense determinations, or such determinations identified by documents provided by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. SBA will determine the service-disabled veteran-owned small business status of the protested concern within 15 business days after receipt of a protest. If SBA does not contact the contracting officer within 15 business days, the contracting officer may award the contract to the apparently successful offeror, unless the contracting officer has granted SBA an extension. The contracting officer may award the contract after receipt of a protest if the contracting officer determines in writing that an award must be made to protect the public interest.

(i) SBA will notify the contracting officer, the protester, and the protested concern of its determination. The determination is effective immediately and is final unless overturned on appeal by SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) pursuant to 13 CFR part 134.

[69 FR 25277, May 5, 2004, as amended at 70 FR 14954, Mar. 23, 2005]

19.308 Solicitation provisions.

(a)(1) Insert the provision at 52.219-1, Small Business Program Representations, in solicitations exceeding the micro-purchase threshold when the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(2) Use the provision with its *Alternate I* in solicitations issued by DoD, NASA, or the Coast Guard that the contracting officer expects will exceed the threshold at 4.601(a).

(b) Insert the provision at 52.219-22, Small Disadvantaged Business Status, in solicitations that include the clause

at 52.219-23, Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns, or 52.219-25, Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Program—Disadvantaged Status and Reporting. Use the provision with its *Alternate 1* in solicitations for acquisitions for which a price evaluation adjustment for small disadvantaged business concerns is authorized on a regional basis.

(c) When contracting by sealed bidding, insert the provision at 52.219-2, Equal Low Bids, in solicitations when the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

[64 FR 51832, Sept. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 13066, Mar. 20, 2002; 68 FR 28081, May 22, 2003. Redesignated at 69 FR 25277, May 5, 2004]

Subpart 19.4—Cooperation With the Small Business Administration

19.401 General.

(a) The Small Business Act is the authority under which the Small Business Administration (SBA) and agencies consult and cooperate with each other in formulating policies to ensure that small business interests will be recognized and protected.

(b) The Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization serves as the agency focal point for interfacing with SBA.

[48 FR 42240, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 48261, Sept. 18, 1995]

19.402 Small Business Administration procurement center representatives.

(a) The SBA may assign one or more procurement center representatives to any contracting activity or contract administration office to carry out SBA policies and programs. Assigned SBA procurement center representatives are required to comply with the contracting agency's directives governing the conduct of contracting personnel and the release of contract information. The SBA must obtain for its procurement center representatives security clearances required by the contracting agency.

(b) Upon their request and subject to applicable acquisition and security reg-

ulations, contracting officers shall give SBA procurement center representatives access to all reasonably obtainable contract information that is directly pertinent to their official duties.

(c) The duties assigned by SBA to its procurement center representatives include the following:

(1) Reviewing proposed acquisitions to recommend—

(i) The setting aside of selected acquisitions not unilaterally set aside by the contracting officer.

(ii) New qualified small, veteran-owned small, service-disabled veteran-owned small, HUBZone small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned small business sources, and

(iii) Breakout of components for competitive acquisitions.

(2) Reviewing proposed acquisition packages provided in accordance with 19.202-1(e). If the SBA procurement center representative believes that the acquisition, as proposed, makes it unlikely that small businesses can compete for the prime contract, the representative shall recommend any alternate contracting method that the representative reasonably believes will increase small business prime contracting opportunities. The recommendation shall be made to the contracting officer within 15 days after receipt of the package.

(3) Recommending concerns for inclusion on a list of concerns to be solicited in a specific acquisition.

(4) Appealing to the chief of the contracting office any contracting officer's determination not to solicit a concern recommended by the SBA for a particular acquisition, when not doing so results in no small business being solicited.

(5) Conducting periodic reviews of the contracting activity to which assigned to ascertain whether it is complying with the small business policies in this regulation.

(6) Sponsoring and participating in conferences and training designed to increase small business participation